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PROGRAM UNDER INTER-AMERICAN COFFEE PACT is outlined by Paul Daniels, chairman of the Inter-American Coffee Board, to delegates at the annual convention of the National Coffee Association. The principles of operation to govern the coffee industry involve measures for full cooperation between all the participating countries in the orderly marketing of coffee and the maintenance, insofar as possible, of the normal and useful operation of the coffee trade. The convention was attended by members of the Pan American Coffee Bureau from eight Latin American countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE WINE OUTPUT DECLINES in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan, largely due to damage to crops from frost. In Río Negro and Neuquén, production shows an increase of 20 percent. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE IMPORTS SHOW TONNAGE DECLINE OF 22.5 PERCENT during the first eight months in 1942. The greatest degree of shrinkage was in iron and manufactures, rubber, fuel and lubricants, paper and cardboard. The only notable increase on a tonnage basis was in the textile group. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA STUDIES WATERWAY NEEDS in order to meet revived wartime market for crude rubber. Any project which would improve water transportation in the tropical areas would be of immense value at the present time. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

CHILE STARTS NEW FRUIT CULTIVATION PROGRAM. A census is to be taken to determine the number and varieties of fruits now being cultivated, and selection of the fruits will be based on these findings and also on foreign and domestic demand. (Export Trade and Shipper -- September 28)

CURRENT WHEAT YIELD IN MEXICO estimated at around 430,000 metric tons -- about 110,000 tons more than the 1941 harvest. This increase resulted in large part from favorable weather conditions. Despite the increased yield, some wheat will have to be imported since consumption is estimated at around 500,000 tons. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

INCREASE OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS IN MEXICO is reflected in war production reports. The main reason for increase is the higher prices being paid for minerals, which has encouraged manufacturers to intensify production, open new mines, and re-open old ones. Trade relations between Mexico and the United States are stated to be highly satisfactory. In 1941 the United States took 91 percent of Mexico's exports and provided 84 percent of her imports. Mexico's exports to the United States this year will show an increase, and the small remaining percentage will be divided principally among Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. (N.Y. Times)

(Over)

VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES FOOD CAMPAIGN to alleviate serious shortage expected as a result of curtailment in ocean transportation. The government will distribute free seeds and fertilizer to families who will raise vegetables, particularly potatoes. The ministry has purchased three loads of assorted seeds from the United States. Technical experts will travel in different sections of the country to give advice. (N.Y. Times)

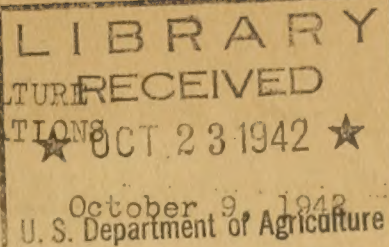
UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN COMBINE PURCHASE OF FATS AND OILS. Purchases will be made according to recommendation of the Combined Food Board which is seeking to effect an efficient procurement and allocation of various important food supplies. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard and the Honorable R. H. Brand of the British Food Mission represent the United States and the United Kingdom, respectively. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

WEST TEXAS SEEN AS RUBBER SOURCE according to investigations of State and Federal authorities. The rubber-bearing plants considered are guayule which grows naturally in West Texas, and "cryptostegia," which is reported to be fast-growing and far superior to guayule as a quick source of rubber. (N.Y. Times)

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 457

INCREASED AIR COMMUNICATION between the United States, the Canal Zone, the north coast of South America, and the Caribbean Islands seems assured as the result of applications received by the Civil Aeronautics Board from seven companies which reported they had equipment and personnel to begin the service immediately. The board had requested the applications on September 1, in an order saying that "due to the war a serious shortage of air transportation appears to exist in the Caribbean area which may adversely affect the national defense." Hearings will be held shortly. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN was reported in Buenos Aires as of September 10. During the next 18 months Argentina will send one million tons of wheat and 3,500 tons of tobacco to Spain, to be paid for in semi-annual payments of 10 million pesos. Spain will build and deliver two merchant ships of 9,000 tons each within 30 - 33 months, and also she will build and deliver a destroyer of the Cervantes type. In addition Spain will deliver 30,000 tons of iron and steel and facilitate means of transporting petroleum. (Export Trade and Shipper, September 28)

ARGENTINA PROHIBITS FURTHER SUGAR EXPORTS to insure adequate supplies for domestic consumption. Present stocks in Argentina are regarded as sufficient, although there is no large surplus. Old sugar in storage at the beginning of the new sugar year, June 1 last, amounted to 168,084 tons. Adding the estimated 1942 production of 359,388 tons, there is an indicated total stock-pile of 527,472 tons to meet consumption needs, estimated at 460,000 tons up to June 1943. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

UNITED STATES - BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT. On October 6, United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery and Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil signed accords concerning the placement of Brazil's exportable surplus of coffee, cocoa, and Brazil nuts on the United States market.

The agreement provided for the purchase by the United States of the entire unshipped portion of the 1941 quota of Brazilian coffee, and guaranteed for the United States the purchase of 9,300,000 bags of 1942-43 quota coffee. The cocoa agreement provided for United States purchase, up to March 1943, of 1,300,000 bags of cocoa from the Bahia region. Provision was made for purchases of up to 10,500 tons of existing supplies of Brazil nuts.

Agreement also was reached concerning the placing of such United States and Brazilian manufactured rubber products as tires and inner tubes on the South American market "to aid other American republics to meet essential needs for products of this commodity, and provide other readjustments in crude rubber prices for a five-year period." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL ADAPTS INDUSTRY TO WAR DEMANDS. Accompanied by Brazilian and American industrial experts, the newly appointed Brazilian Coordinator, João Alberto Lins de Barros, has arrived in São Paulo to begin a survey of transportation facilities, manufacturing plants, and coffee and cotton plantations. (N.Y. Times)

(Over)

NEW BANK NOTES FOR BRAZIL. The United States Government is rushing by plane a supply of newly engraved Brazilian bank notes to help overcome the currency shortage which was one of the reasons for the recent eight day bank holiday. Finance Minister Arthur de Souza Costa explained that one of the reasons for this holiday was the recent heavy increase in money circulation "without corresponding bank deposits" -- in other words, hoarding. He also said the government was planning shortly a complete substitution of the circulation medium "to thus establish a treasury balance and re-establish an exact value money circulation." When sufficient new currency is available, the Government will call in all existing notes. Measures presumably will be taken then against Axis nationals who possess an unusual quantity of currency. (Christian Science Monitor)

NEW COLOMBIAN AIRPORTS FOR RUBBER. In cooperation with the Rubber Reserve Corporation, the Colombian government is building twenty landing fields in the remote jungles to bring out rubber by airplane. The first of these fields has already been constructed at Calamar. Collectors of wild rubber will be outfitted, grubstaked, and carried to the outposts by planes which will carry crude rubber on the return trips. (N.Y. Times)

CARGOES FOR PUERTO RICO. The WSA has delegated to the Territories and Insular Possessions Division of the Department of the Interior full authority to select all commercial cargoes loaded at continental United States ports for Puerto Rico. When informed by the WSA as to what tonnages are available and working in close cooperation with the Puerto Rican authorities to assure that the most urgently needed supplies move as quickly as possible, the Interior Department will compile shipping lists. Allocation of tonnage rests with the WSA. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

HAITI EXPORTS SURPLUS COTTON. Exports to Colombia between October 1, 1941 and June 15, 1942, have reduced by about 50 percent the Haitian supply on hand at the beginning of this period. The stock of 4,000 bales from the 1940 crop still on hand at the end of 1941, together with the 1941 crop of 12,500 bales, had created a surplus problem which was especially serious because of shipping shortages and lack of access to European and Asiatic markets. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

HONDURAS PLANS PROGRAM OF PUBLIC WORKS. To relieve an unemployment and economic crisis resulting from the war and the loss of markets for bananas, Honduras has signed an agreement with the Export-Import Bank for financial aid from the United States. The first assistance project, employing 1,000 men, calls for work on the Potrerillos - Lake Yohoa highway. Other projects, including sanitation, are expected to follow. (N.Y. Times)

PARAGUAY GETS LOAN. Paraguay and the United States have signed a loan agreement totaling \$3,000,000 for public works and agricultural and industrial development in Paraguay. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 458

October 16, 1942

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LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. Eighty-five newspaper publishers, editors, and writers from nineteen American republics will come to the United States this Fall and Winter to inspect war activities. Making tours in groups of from ten to fifteen, the visitors will interview leaders in government, industry, and journalism, and they will inspect war industries, training camps, and naval centers. There will also be visits to newspaper plants, colleges, radio stations, medical centers, museums, libraries, and large engineering works. (N.Y. Times)

FIBER PRODUCTION EXPANDED. The Combined Raw Materials Board recommends that 20,000 acres of Latin American jungle be cleared for growing abacá. Other valuable fibers facing expanding production are hemp and sisal. It is reported that Haiti will plant 40,000 acres of sisal, and the United States plans extensive planting of hemp. (Christian Science Monitor)

COLOMBIA TO START SHIPBUILDING PLAN. Dependent upon the negotiation of a lend-lease appropriation, Colombia plans to operate the modern shipyard built by Germans at Barranquilla prior to the war. The boats will be auxiliary sailing ships, made of native woods. They will be Diesel powered and of a single type ranging from 200 to 300 tons. (N.Y. Times)

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MEXICAN RAIL PACT NEARLY COMPLETE. Details of an agreement between the United States and Mexico to rehabilitate the Mexican railroad network by supplying locomotives and cars, are virtually settled. With fast regular overland transportation assured, Mexico will be able to develop agricultural items that she formerly could not export to advantage. (N.Y. Times)

MIGRATORY BEET WORKERS LEAVE FOR MEXICO. Governor John W. Bicker of Ohio has appealed for Federal aid in halting an exodus of Mexican workers, badly needed to complete the harvest of the State's largest sugar beet crop. The Mexicans fear that nation-wide gasoline rationing will prevent a return to their homes after the harvest. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

TRINIDAD'S BULK PURCHASING PLAN. Because of the critical shipping situation, Trinidad, in common with other areas in the British West Indies, has put into effect a bulk purchasing plan. While, in general, the system was intended to apply primarily to essential foodstuffs, in Trinidad the scheme applies to all essential goods. It is not known how extensively it is being utilized at the present time. (Export Trade and Shipper, September 28)

(Over)

URUGUAYAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. Foreign Minister Alberto Guani, one of the leading pro-Democratic statesmen of the Western Hemisphere, has resigned his post and the portfolio of acting Defense Minister to campaign for the vice presidential nomination. Elections are scheduled for November. (N.Y. Times)

EIGHT VENEZUELAN FARMS experiment with silk cultivation. Dr. Vartan K. Osigian announces the completion of his 15-year experiments to create new and larger types of mulberry trees, with leaves of from 19-1/2 to 22 inches square, and a new silk worm three times as big as the Japanese worm and capable of producing a stronger, finer, and more resilient thread. (Christian Science Monitor)

VENEZUELA ENCOURAGES NEW INDUSTRY. The Venezuelan Ministry of Development announces that 364 new industries have been attracted to Venezuela from June 1939 to June 1942. On the recently issued list of new industries needed as emergency measures indispensable to the economy of the nation are the production of seed oils, fertilizer and animal fodder, and a powdered milk industry. The list of industries of first necessity includes the preservation of vegetables through canning or freezing, the manufacture of bags from vegetable fibers, and erection of tanning factories.

In the seed oil program the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture has developed a sesame seed which gives several times the amount of oil derived from ordinary varieties. (Christian Science Monitor)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 459

October 23, 1942

U. S. Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN SOIL CONSERVATION. Speaking at a meeting of Friends of the Land in Louisville, Vice President Wallace declared it to be the privilege and duty of the people of the United States to help the people of Latin America improve their soil and their food production, not only during the war but in the years after hostilities end. (N.Y. Times)

NEW DECREE LAW IN BRAZIL. Under the terms of a new decree of President Vargas there is almost no limit as to what can be done to further the economic interests of Brazil. The preliminary work of economic mobilization is already well under way. (Journal of Commerce)

RUBBER CONTROL IN BRAZIL. By decree of President Vargas, all rubber produced in Brazil has been placed under the exclusive control of the Rubber Credit Bank which will have the right to seize stocks found to be abnormally large or of questionable destination. The Brazilian rubber gatherer is assured continued exploitation of rubber until 1948, provided that he was engaged in gathering rubber up to January of this year; he gains further protection in the allotment of one hectare of land for his support, improved living conditions, and a pay increase. (N.Y. Times)

AIR FREIGHT TO BERMUDA INCREASES 1,100 percent since the beginning of this year. Freight shipments cover the widest range of goods, especially light non-essential items that merchants cannot get by ocean freight. (N.Y. Times)

COSTA RICA TO FEED CANAL ZONE. Stimulation of agriculture in Costa Rica is expected to provide additional supplies for the Panama Canal Zone. Representatives of the Export-Import Bank arrange agreement with Costa Rican Government to finance developments and to set prices for the products. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA DESTROYS ARGENTINE MEATS. Fear that imported Argentine meats and by-products had been affected by hoof-and-mouth and other diseases caused the Cuban Government to order that all such imports be destroyed by incineration. Importers were reimbursed for \$8,000, the value of the Argentine shipments. (N.Y. Times)

BRITISH HONDURAS AND HONDURAS BUILD SAILING VESSELS. Work has begun on Belize shipyards on construction of ships to be used in trade between the United States and Central America. Similar ships will be built in Honduran yards in the Bahia Islands. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO AND CUBA MAKE DEFENSE PACT. A "friendship pact" for anti-submarine vigilance in the Gulf of Mexico permits reciprocal use of naval and air bases within a designated zone. The two Governments agree to service, within their resources, the planes or ships with fuel, provisions, and food. (Christian Science Monitor)

(Over)

MEXICAN LABOR TO AID UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE. The second contingent of a probable 3,000 Mexican workmen to come to relieve United States labor shortages, left Mexico on September 30. The 650 workers traveled at the expense and under guarantees of the United States Government; they will be repatriated in Mexico when the harvesting season is over. The United States Department of Agriculture has handled most of the arrangements for the importation of the workers. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICAN HEMP TRADE EXPANDS. Since the United States contracted in July to purchase all exportable surpluses of hemp from Yucatan, the favorable price fixed by the contract and the stabilization of the market has stimulated new plantings, renovation of machinery for decortication, and a general rehabilitation of the fiber cultivation and processing. Though made for a one-year period only, the contract is renewable. It calls for an annual minimum shipment to the United States of 350,000 bales. (Christian Science Monitor)

NICARAGUAN MAIL NOW FORWARDED VIA MEXICO. Because of the new overland route, parcels and packages are no longer subject to the restrictions as to size, weight and number, which were imposed last April 20. (N.Y. Times)

PANAMA SENDS RUBBER AND HEMP BY AIR. Collected from wild trees in the Panama jungles, the first shipment of seven tons of crude rubber is being prepared for forwarding to the United States by air. Shipment of 150,000 pounds of hemp fiber has been made from plantations in the Province of Bocas del Toro. (N.Y. Times)

PAN-AMERICAN HIGHWAY IN PERU. With its section of the highway now complete, Peru is constructing a chain of 20 hotels conveniently spaced along the route or on auxiliary roads. The ninth of this chain of hotels has already been completed. (Christian Science Monitor)

A NEW U.S. AGREEMENT WITH PERU will assist that country in the development of home-grown food supplies. The agreement provides mainly for technical assistance to Peru and involves no financing. (N.Y. Times)

PUERTO RICO FOOD BILL DELAYED. The House Agriculture Committee awaits a full report of Federal expenditures in Puerto Rico before acting on a bill to authorize the appropriation of \$15,000,000 to encourage production of food and feed products for home consumption there. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

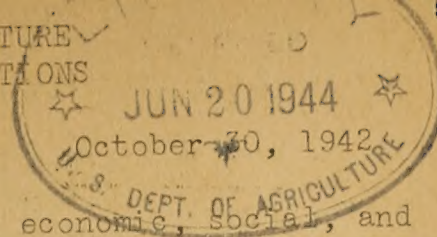
VENEZUELA CONCLUDES RUBBER AGREEMENT. All rubber produced in Venezuela in excess of the 800 tons needed for domestic consumption will be exported to the United States. (N. Y. Times)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 460



NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT SUCHIATE RIVER. An event of economic, social, and strategic importance will be the opening of the bridge across the Suchiate River, international boundary between Mexico and Guatemala. With a final linking of the railway systems of the two countries, all Central America will obtain a vitally needed line for exports and imports. Inauguration ceremonies have been announced for November 12. (Christian Science Monitor)

CHILE - ARGENTINE RAIL LINK. Scheduled for completion by the end of 1942, a new railroad will enable Antofagasta, Chile, to receive food supplies from Salta, Argentina, and at the same time will create a new market and shorter outlet for Argentina's agricultural products. Pending completion of the railroad across the Socompa Pass, a motor transport company has been organized in Argentina to carry passengers and freight over the mountain highway for the 212 miles between the railheads in the two countries. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

BRAZIL SELLS GOODS TO WORKERS. To meet the lag between salaries and rising prices, President Vargas has issued a decree providing for the sale of items of prime necessity at cost to workers. Some time ago the Government opened experimental restaurants for workers. (N.Y. Times)

NEW BRAZILIAN CURRENCY MEASURES. Brazilian Law No. 4,791 stipulates that effective November 1, 1942, the milreis will be replaced by the cruzeiro as the unit of Brazilian currency. The cruzeiro will have the same value as the milreis. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC CHIEF HITS REDUCTION IN MEAT SUPPLY. Economic Coordinator João Alberto Lins Barros has told meat packers that he will suspend the slaughtering of cattle for export unless provision is made to end the critical meat situation in Rio de Janeiro. Recently raised retail prices are below the level of the export prices which Mr. Barros declares are still too high for Brazilians. (N.Y. Times)

NEW FISH INDUSTRY IN CHILE. Antofagasta, Chile, has a new and important food industry in the Sociedad Chilena Industrial de Pescado. Twelve million Chilean pesos have been invested in an up-to-date fish canning and processing plant, which now employs 180 people. Tuna, sardine, anchovy, and other fish are canned, and fish-oil and other by-products are processed. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

NEW HONDURAN PARCEL POST SURCHARGE FOR THE DURATION. An additional surcharge of 0.25 lempira on all parcel post packages weighing 5 kilos or more entering the country, has been imposed by Honduran Presidential order. The purpose of this additional levy is to defray expenses occasioned by the establishment of a new maritime route between Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and Puerto Cortés, Honduras. Puerto Barrios is the southern terminus of the overland parcel post route from the United States. (Export Trade and Shipper)

(Over)

MEXICO'S RUBBER BOARD. Mexico has set up a National Rubber Board to control rubber supplies and manufacturing. The Board is a direct result of an agreement between the Rubber Reserve Company, in behalf of the United States Government, and the Mexican Government. Signed on September 4, this agreement covers the period to December 21, 1946. According to its provisions, Mexico will cooperate with the Rubber Reserve Company to stimulate production, gathering, and improvement of wild rubber; she will sell to that company the Nation's total production of guayule and other plant rubber and any exportable surplus of tree rubber over a specified amount. (Christian Science Monitor)

VENEZUELAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS. The Venezuelan economist, Señor Carlos Fleury Cuello, announces that preliminary experiments on large tracts of land near La Puerta de Guarico have indicated a possible production of wheat, linseed, and cereals in the immense llanos and production to such an extent that the country may export these commodities instead of importing them. Barley, oats, rye, and rice were also grown successfully. (Christian Science Monitor)

GROWTH IN VENEZUELAN INTER-AMERICAN TRADE. Venezuela has increased her trade not only with the United States, but with other countries of the Hemisphere as well. In 1941 Argentina was the second largest market for Venezuelan coffee, and in return supplied large quantities of wheat flour. Other Venezuelan trade is developing with Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, and Uruguay.

During the past 18 months Venezuela has signed commercial arrangements with Canada and her first commercial agreement with Chile. The modus vivendi with Brazil and the commercial agreement with Colombia were renewed. Still another important agreement was the treaty signed by Venezuela and Colombia to provide for the demarcation of their common border and to govern the navigation of their common waterways. Together with a growing exchange of commercial missions and of trade information, these agreements indicate Venezuela's quickening interest in inter-American trade. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

CHEESE FACTORY IN VENEZUELA. A new dairy-products plant is being speeded to completion at Santa Bárbara in the State of Zulia. Santa Bárbara is an important city to the south of Lake Maracaibo and Venezuela's great oil fields. The center of stock breeding in Venezuela, with first-class pasturage and dairy herds, the Santa Bárbara region now has an estimated production of 25,000 gallons of milk per day. Inadequate communications between Caracas and the western part of Venezuela have made it necessary, however, for the capital to import dairy products and canned milk from abroad. The making of butter and cheese has been largely on a cottage-industry basis.

A new creamery in the city of Machiques, about 100 miles northwest of Santa Bárbara, is already producing 2,000 pounds of butter a day. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)